

# Foster Parents and Caregivers

Changing Lives One Child at a Time

June 2008



## Free Pass to Summer Fun in Washington State Parks

Children's Administration's licensed foster parents and unlicensed caregivers accompanied by foster children in their care are now able to receive free passes to Washington state parks and campsites. Families will still be required to pay a reservation fee, but the overnight camping fee is waived.

The free admission policy is the result of Senate Bill 5010 passed in the 2008 legislature that allows for reduced price or free passes for qualifying seniors, people with disabilities, and Children's Administration's foster parents and unlicensed caregivers accompanied by foster children. Beginning on May 23, 2008, these families will be able to gain free use of campsites and free admission to most state parks in Washington.

**At the entrance of each state park, Children's Administration licensed foster parents will need to provide:**

- Foster home license or foster parent identification card, and
- Valid driver's license.

Please contact your licensor if you would like a foster parent identification card.

**Children's Administration unlicensed caregivers will need to provide:**

- Caregiver identification card, and
- Valid driver's license.

Please contact Michael Luque, Foster Care and Kinship Care Program Manager at 360-902-7986 or lumi300@dshs.wa.gov to receive a caregiver identification card.

**Just a reminder:** While the overnight camping fee is waived, there is a reservation fee. Specific sites may have additional site fees as well. For more information go to <http://www.parks.wa.gov/reserve.asp>.

Happy Camping and Picnicking at Washington State Parks!

## 2008 Foster Parent Caregiver Conference Scholarship Application Information

**This is scholarship application information only and does not automatically register you for the conference.**

Event Dates: Sunday, September 21st – Tuesday, September 23rd, 2008  
Event Location: Yakima Convention Center – Yakima, Washington

### Online Application Process:

We are excited to announce a new website for attendees to apply for a conference scholarship and obtain general conference information

From June 1-30, 2008, applicants can go to [www.fpcconference.com](http://www.fpcconference.com) and complete the application form. This application will ask for your name, address, county and past scholarship history (if applicable). In addition, this site will contain general information and frequently asked questions about the conference.

If you require a paper copy of the application, contact Nikki Plaid, registration manager, at 206-782-5450 or [nikki@mcwevents.com](mailto:nikki@mcwevents.com).

### Eligibility Criteria:

Applicants must be a Washington State Resident

- Licensed Caregiver
- Relative/Unlicensed Caregiver (open Children's Administration Case)
- Relative Caregiver (not involved with Children's Administration)

### General Information:

The Scholarship funds will cover a maximum of two hotel nights and/or the conference registration fee.

### The following explains the two categories of scholarship:

1. Full Scholarship: Conference training manual and handouts, lunch on Sunday and Monday, dinner on Monday, snack breaks, box lunch Tuesday, and evening social activities and lodging for up to two nights.
2. Partial Scholarship: Conference training manual & handouts, lunch on Sunday and Monday, dinner on Monday, snack breaks, box lunch Tuesday, and evening social activities.

**Please note:** Scholarship recipients residing within a 50-mile radius of the event center will only be eligible for the Conference Only Scholarship which does not include lodging. Recipients awarded Full Scholarships (includes lodging) will be required to share a room with fellow scholarship recipients.

### **Application Requirements and Deadline:**

Applications must be fully completed by Monday, June 30, 2008 at 5:00 pm. Applications can be completed online at [www.fpcconference.com](http://www.fpcconference.com), or sent via mail or fax to:

MCW Events C/O Conference Scholarship Applications  
1752 NW Market Street  
Seattle, WA 98107  
Fax: 206-299-3332

### **Notification Process:**

All scholarship applicants will be notified by email or mail by Thursday, July 10. If you have any questions, please contact Nikki Plaid at [nikki@mcwevents.com](mailto:nikki@mcwevents.com) or at 206-782-5450.

## **Hang Up or Pay Up! Washington State Hands Free Driving Law**

Starting July 1, 2008 Washington State driving law goes into effect. The new hands-free cell-phone law prohibits the use of wireless device such as a cell-phone being held to your ear while driving.

## **Important Resources and Numbers**

**Important numbers to know when you take care of children in out of home care.**

**Foster Parent and Caregiver Crisis and Support Line:** 1-800-301-1868.

### **On-Going and Crisis Supports for foster parents**

Under contracts with the state, three private agencies are working to build supports for you within the foster care community. Supports include hubs, support groups and matching new foster parents with veteran foster parents. To get connected:

- If you live in eastern Washington, the Olympic Peninsula down through Pacific County or from Thurston County to Clark County, call 1-888-794-1794.
- If you live in King County, call 206-605-0664 and in any county from Snohomish County north, call 360-510-7601 or 360-863-6530.
- If you live in Pierce or Kitsap counties, call 253-473-9252.
- If you live in Renton Region 4 CARE Counseling, Assistance, Relief and Education 1-888-263-3457 or [www.friendsofyouth.org](http://www.friendsofyouth.org).

**Family Help Line:** 1-800-932-HOPE or [www.parenttrust.org](http://www.parenttrust.org). The Family Help Line is a free, statewide training and referral line for the families of Washington State. Last year, the Family Help Line received over 5,000 calls and requests for information. Calls can last up to 90 minutes and parents can call as often as needed.

Support for foster parents under investigation for allegations of abuse or neglect: **Foster Parent Investigation Retention Support Team (FIRST)** 1-253-219-6782. Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., or leave a message and receive a return call within 24 hours.

**Foster Parent and Caregiver Crisis and Support Line:** 1-800-301-1868.

**Mental Health Crisis Line Information:** The crisis line telephone number for your county or region is available on the DSHS Mental Health Division website at: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/mentalhealth/crisis.shtml>.

### **General foster parent information for the state of Washington**

**FPAWS: Foster Parent Association of Washington State**, 1-800-391-CARE (2273) or [www.fpaws.org](http://www.fpaws.org). FPAWS is seeking new members and supporting foster parents in many ways, including referrals to local associations.

Kitsap and Pierce County information about becoming a foster parent or to receive foster parent support: **Foster Care Resource Network**, 1-253-473-9252. Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or leave a message and receive a return call by the next business day.

### **Resource Information Available Statewide**

Get connected to information on resources in your area by calling 211 – a toll free number.

**Children's Administration Foster Parent Website:** <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/>

**Children's Administration Foster Parent Training Website** – Trainings are open to all licensed foster parents, licensed relative caregivers and unlicensed caregivers. For information about foster parent and caregiver training, check out: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/training.asp>

### **Children's Administration Foster Care Listserv**

Join the 400 people who have subscribed to the List Serve <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=fosterparents&&A=1> for updated information on resources for the work you do in caring for children.

**Family Planning Services** are designed to help avoid unwanted or mistimed pregnancy and are available through your local Community Service Office (CSO). Each CSO has a full time Family Planning Nurse to help provide services to Medicaid eligible clients. There is also a Family Planning hotline number 1-800-770-4334.